



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/050,539	01/18/2002	Sunao Ishizaki	NA04	7739

24998 7590 01/06/2004

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN & OSHINSKY LLP
2101 L STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20037-1526

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, LAM S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2853

DATE MAILED: 01/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/050,539

Applicant(s)

ISHIZAKI, SUNAO

Examiner

LAM S NGUYEN

Art Unit

2853

-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

In light of the applicants' arguments (filed on 10/22/2003) referring to claim 7, the examiner admits that Isamoto and Katerberg do not disclose the claimed invention. Accordingly, the Final Rejection (paper 9) is withdrawn.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1, 3, 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mitsuhashi et al. (US 6273538).

Mitsuhashi et al. discloses a drive circuit for an ink jet head having nozzles (FIG. 1, element 41), pressure generating chambers (Fig. 1, element 20) filled with ink to be discharged from said nozzles and piezoelectric actuators (FIG. 1, element 12) corresponding to respective pressure generating chambers, said ink jet head discharging ink droplets from said nozzles by changing volumes of said pressure generating chambers in response to a drive waveform signal applied to said piezoelectric actuators, said drive circuit comprising:

a waveform generator (FIG. 5, element 60) generating said drive waveform signal (FIG. 5);

a power amplifier (FIG. 5, element 51 and 52) amplifying said drive waveform

Art Unit: 2853

signal supplied to a first input of said power amplifier and outputting said drive waveform signal to said piezoelectric actuators (Fig. 5);

a feedback loop (FIG. 5: the resistor connected from the negative input of element 51 to the PC point) feeding a terminal voltage applied to said piezoelectric actuators back to a second input of said power amplifier (Fig. 5).

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hiwada (US 6068360).

Hiwada discloses a drive circuit for an ink jet head of a serial type ink jet printer, the ink jet head including a carriage, nozzles, and pressure generating chambers filled with ink (FIG. 1, element 1), wherein said ink jet head discharges ink droplets from the nozzles by changing volumes of said pressure generating chambers in response to a drive waveform signal applied to piezoelectric actuators (FIG. 6, elements 12) corresponding to said pressure generating chambers while moving said carriage reciprocally in a direction perpendicular to a feeding direction of a printing sheet, said drive circuit comprising:

a control circuit board (FIG. 3, 5, element 4) including a waveform generator generating (FIG. 5, element 41) a signal for driving said ink jet head (FIG. 3, 5, element 1), a power amplifier amplifying the output signal of said waveform generator, an image

Art Unit: 2853

memory storing printing data, and a data transmitter transmitting image data stored in said image memory as serial data thereon (FIG. 3, 5, element 2);

an intermediate circuit board (FIG. 3, 5, element 3) mounted on said carriage, said intermediate circuit board including a data receiver receiving said serial data from said data transmitter, transfer gates (FIG. 6, element 22) selecting piezoelectric actuators on the basis of said received printing data, and a level shifter matching voltage levels from said data receiver to respective transfer gates;

a cable connecting said control circuit board and said intermediate circuit board to each other (FIG. 5, elements 5, 71, 72 or FIG. 3, elements 5); and

a negative feedback loop including a resistor and a capacitor, said negative feedback loop provided between said power amplifier included in said control circuit board and inputs of said transfer gates included in said intermediate circuit board (column 3, line 5-15, FIG. 3, elements 7, 10, 70: the e terminal of driver IC 2 is the input of the transfer gates 22 as in FIG. 6).

Referring to claim 8: further comprising a negative feedback loop including a resistor, said negative feedback loop being provided between an output and an input of said power amplifier mounted on said control circuit board (FIG. 3: the feedback 70 is provided between the output of power amplifier C and the input of the power amplifier through resistor 7).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

Art Unit: 2853

having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 2, 4, 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitsuhashi et al. (US 6273538) in view of Katerberg et al. (US 5384583).

Mitsuhashi et al. discloses the claim invention as applied to claims 1, 3, 5 except that wherein said feedback loop includes a capacitor producing a lead to phase singal in a high frequency range.

However, Katerberg et al. discloses that wherein said feedback loop includes a capacitor producing a lead to phase singal in a high frequency range (FIG. 2, element 40).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include such capacitor as disclosed by Katerberg et al. into the feedback circuit of the driving circuit disclosed by Mitsuhashi et al. The motivation of doing so is to prevent the self-oscillation of the amplifier in order to gain the stability of the operation of the amplifier as taught by Katerberg et al. (column 3, line 55-60).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 10/29/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding to the arguments referring to claims 1, 3, 5: The applicant argued that the Mitsuhashi et al. reference fails to disclose the feedback loop feeding a terminal voltage applied to said piezoelectric actuators and said output signal of said power amplifier back to a second input of said power amplifier, wherein the voltage of the terminal voltage is reduced or less than the voltage at the output of the power amplifier due to the cable R0 or the resistance of the connection. However, the claim language fails to point out that there exist a resistance of the

Art Unit: 2853

connection or cable between the power amplifier and the terminal voltage. Therefore, the output of the power amplifier and the terminal voltage can be interpreted as the same point. Based on this interpretation, the cited prior art reads on the claim language.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LAM S NGUYEN whose telephone number is (703)305-3342. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00AM - 3:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, STEPHEN D. MEIER can be reached on (703)308-4896. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)872-9306 for regular communications and (703)305-3432 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0956.

LN

December 31, 2003



HAI PHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER